



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shana Jones, Special Assistant
Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer
(210) 384-7440

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**SAN ANTONIO POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICER PLEADS GUILTY TO CIVIL
RIGHTS CHARGE**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton and Wan J. Kim, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, United States Department of Justice, announced that San Antonio Police officer Roberto M. Garza, Jr., plead guilty to a felony charge of deprivation of civil rights for assaulting a 16-year-old juvenile on March 26, 2003.

By pleading guilty, Garza admitted that while apprehending the juvenile he exercised unreasonable force which caused bodily injury to the juvenile. Garza was on duty when he punched and struck with his knee a handcuffed juvenile after a foot chase on the Southeast side of San Antonio. The assault was witnessed by another San Antonio Police Officer who reported it to his superiors.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Bill Baumann and Jim Felte and Jonathan Skrmetti, Trial Attorneys, Civil Rights Division, Criminal Section, of the Department of Justice are prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

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